

VZCZCXRO1662

OO RUEHAG RUEHAO RUEHAP RUEHAT RUEHBC RUEHBI RUEHBL RUEHBZ RUEHCD  
RUEHCHI RUEHCI RUEHCN RUEHDA RUEHDE RUEHDF RUEHDT RUEH DU RUEHED RUEHEL  
RUEHFK RUEHFL RUEHGA RUEHGD RUEHGH RUEHGI RUEHGR RUEHHA RUEHHM RUEHHO  
RUEHHT RUEHIHL RUEHIK RUEHJO RUEHJS RUEHKN RUEHKR RUEHKS RUEHKUK  
RUEHKW RUEHLA RUEHLH RUEHLN RUEHLZ RUEHMA RUEHMC RUEH MJ RUEHMR RUEHMR  
RUEHMT RUEHNAG RUEHNEH RUEHNG RUEHNH RUEHNL RUEHNP RUEHNZ RUEHPA  
RUEHPB RUEHPD RUEHPOD RUEHPT RUEHPW RUEHQU RUEHRD RUEHRG RUEHRN  
RUEHROV RUEHRS RUEHTM RUEHTRO RUEHVC RUEHVK RUEHYG  
DE RUEHC #1419/01 3192322

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

O 142311Z NOV 08

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE IMMEDIATE

RUEHFSI/DIR FSINFATC IMMEDIATE

RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2078

RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA IMMEDIATE 7108

RUCPDO/ALL USDOC DISTDIR COLLECTIVE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RHMCSUU/CDRAMC FT BELVOIR VA//AMCMI-SS// IMMEDIATE

RUEAHQA/HQ USAF WASHINGTON DC//XOXXI// IMMEDIATE

RHMCSUU/HQ AFOSI DOQ ANDREWS AFB MD// IMMEDIATE

RHMCSUU/FAA NATIONAL HQ WASHINGTON DC//ACI-400// IMMEDIATE

RHMCSUU/COMNAVAIRSYSCOM PATUXENT RIVERMD//AIR1031B// IMMEDIATE

RHMFIIU/NRC WASHINGTON DC//INFOSEC// IMMEDIATE

RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ2-JIT// IMMEDIATE

RUCPCIM/CIM NTDB WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RHMCSUU/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

RHMFIIU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL IMMEDIATE

RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE 4113

INFO RUEBKC/ATO ASIA IMMEDIATE 1753

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 121419

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [CASC](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [SO](#)

SUBJECT: TRAVEL WARNING - SOMALIA

11. The State Department warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to Somalia and recommends that American citizens avoid all travel to Somalia. This replaces the Travel Warning dated October 24, 2008 to note terrorist attacks in the regions of Somaliland and Puntland.

12. The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against all travel to Somalia, including northern Somalia. On October 29, 2008, terrorists launched several coordinated and near-simultaneous attacks involving multiple car bombs against local and international targets in the regions of Somaliland and Puntland. There is no U.S. Embassy or other U.S. diplomatic presence in Somalia. Consequently, the U.S. Government is not in a position to assist or effectively provide services to U.S. citizens in Somalia.

13. Terrorist operatives and armed groups in Somalia have demonstrated their intent and capability to attack air operations at Mogadishu International Airport. Kidnapping, murder, illegal roadblocks, banditry, and other violent incidents and threats to U.S. citizens and other foreigners can occur in many regions. Inter-clan and inter-factional fighting flares up with little or no warning. Unpredictable armed conflicts among rival militias are prevalent in southern Somalia, particularly in and around Mogadishu. This has resulted in the deaths of hundreds of Somali nationals and the displacement of nearly one million people. In December 2006, Ethiopian military forces entered Somalia in support of the Somali Transitional Federal Government. The continuing Ethiopian military presence and support for the Transitional Federal Government has

heightened tensions among rival political and clan factions within Somalia.

¶4. The Sanaag and Sool Regions in eastern Somaliland, bordering on Puntland (northeastern Somalia), are subject to insecurity due to ongoing border disputes and inter-clan fighting. There also have been several fatal attacks and violent kidnappings against international relief workers, including Westerners, throughout Somalia, Somaliland, and Puntland. Lines of control in Mogadishu are unclear and frequently shift, making movement within Mogadishu extremely hazardous. Violent riots have recently occurred in Mogadishu, as thousands of civilians protested rising food prices and the devaluation of the Somali currency.

¶5. Recently, insurgents and extremist elements opposed to the Somali government conducted hit-and-run attacks on several towns in central and southern Somalia, to include the districts of Gedo and Bay (especially the vicinity of Baidoa) in the south.

¶6. U.S. citizens also are urged to use extreme caution when sailing near the coast of Somalia. Merchant vessels, fishing boats, and recreational craft all risk seizure by pirates and having their crews held for ransom in the waters off the Horn of Africa, most especially in the international waters near Somalia. There have been numerous such incidents, highlighting the continuing danger of maritime travel near the Horn of Africa. If transit around the Horn of Africa is necessary, it

STATE 00121419 002 OF 002

is strongly recommended that vessels travel in convoys, and maintain good communications contact at all times.

¶7. U.S. citizens who travel to Somalia despite this Travel Warning are urged to register through the State Department's travel registration website, <https://travelregistration.state.gov> and obtain updated information on travel and security from the U.S. Embassies in neighboring countries. Travelers to the self-declared "Republic of Somaliland" should register with the U.S. Embassy in Djibouti, and travelers to Puntland or southern Somalia should register with the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

¶8. The U.S. Embassy in Djibouti is located at Plateau du Serpent, Boulevard Marechal Joffre, Djibouti City; telephone (253) 35-39-95; after-hours telephone number (253) 35-13-43. The mailing address is Ambassade Americaine, B.P. 185, Djibouti, Republique de Djibouti, and their workweek is Sunday through Thursday. The U.S. Embassy in Nairobi is located on United Nations Avenue, Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya; telephone (254)(20) 363-6000; after-hours emergencies (254)(20) 363-6170. The mailing address is P.O. Box 606 Village Market 00621, Nairobi, Kenya.

¶9. U.S. citizens should also consult the Department of State's Country Specific Information for Somalia and the Worldwide Caution, which are located on the Department's internet website at <http://travel.state.gov>. Travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

¶10. Minimize considered.

